

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A rotary cutter comprising:

a first roll rotatable about a first roll axis; and

a second roll rotatable about a second roll axis which is parallel to the first roll axis;[[,]]

a first cutting blade and a first abutment which are provided on a periphery of the first roll
and a second cutting blade and a second abutment which are provided on a periphery of the second
roll;

synchronizing means for synchronizing each rotation of the first roll and the second roll so
that when the first roll and the second roll rotate in synchrony the first cutting blade of the first roll
opposes the second abutment of the second roll and the first abutment of the first roll opposes the
second cutting blade of the second roll; and

distance setting means for setting a distance between the first cutting blade and the second
abutment and between the first abutment and the second cutting blade,

wherein the first roll and the second roll rotate in synchrony to receive a fibrous product, and
the first cutting blade and the second abutment are configured to hold and cut the fibrous product
partway through the thickness from one side thereof, and the first abutment and the second cutting
blade are configured to hold and cut the fibrous product partway through the thickness from the
other side thereof at a location different from the cut made by the first cutting blade and the second
abutment,

wherein a first rib is provided to project radially from the periphery of the first roll and the first cutting blade and the first abutment are formed in the first rib, and a second rib is provided to project radially from the periphery of the second roll and the second cutting blade and the second abutment are formed in the second rib.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Original): A rotary cutter according to claim 1, wherein the first and second abutments have a larger width than the edges of the first and second cutting blades.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A rotary cutter according to claim 1, wherein the distance setting means includes a first contact periphery which is formed on the first roll with a radius larger than the periphery of the roll body of the first roll and a second contact periphery which is formed on the second roll with a radius larger than the periphery of the roll body of the second roll, wherein a distance between the first roll axis and the second roll axis is set by contact between the first contact periphery and the second contact periphery.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a fibrous product comprising: rotating a first roll having a first cutting blade and a first abutment and a second roll having a second cutting blade and a second abutment in synchronism with each other so that the first cutting blade is opposed to the second abutment and the first abutment is opposed to the second cutting blade, the first roll and the second roll being installed in parallel with each other to have roll axes a distance

apart from each other; and feeding a fibrous product between the first roll and the second roll so that the fibrous product is cut only halfway through the thickness from one side thereof with the fibrous product held between the first cutting blade and the second abutment and the fibrous product is also cut only halfway through the thickness from the other side thereof with the fibrous product held between the first abutment and the second cutting blade.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a fibrous product according to claim 5, wherein the fibrous product includes a substrate sheet and two fiber bundle layers disposed on and locally bonded to two sides of the substrate sheet, respectively, wherein one of the fiber bundle layers is cut by the first cutting blade and the other is cut by the second cutting blade.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a fibrous product according to claim 6, wherein the fibrous product is a cleaning article in which the fiber bundle layers thus cut have an effect of collecting dust.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A rotary cutter comprising:

a first roll rotatable about a first roll axis, the first roll having on its surface a first cutting blade and a first abutment disposed sequentially in the circumferential direction of the first roll;

a second roll rotatable about a second roll axis which is parallel to the first roll axis, the second roll having on its surface a second cutting blade and a second abutment disposed sequentially in the circumferential direction of the second roll, said first roll and said second roll rotate in synchrony to receive a fibrous product;

synchronizing means for causing the first roll and the second roll to rotate in synchrony such that upon rotation the first cutting blade of the first roll opposes the second abutment of the second roll and the first abutment of the first roll opposes the second cutting blade of the second roll; and

distance setting means for setting a distance between the first cutting blade and the second abutment and between the first abutment and the second cutting blade,

wherein the first cutting blade and the second abutment are configured to hold and cut the fibrous product partway through from one side thereof, and the first abutment and the second cutting blade are configured to hold and cut the fibrous product partway through from the opposite side thereof at a location displaced from the cut made by the first cutting blade and the second abutment,

wherein a first rib is provided to project radially from the periphery of the first roll and the first cutting blade and the first abutment are formed in the first rib, and a second rib is provided to project radially from the periphery of the second roll and the second cutting blade and the second abutment are formed in the second rib.